

Fairfield Community Newsletter

Recycling, Organics and Waste Services



Monitoring Contamination

State law Senate Bill (SB) 1383 requires local jurisdictions to monitor contamination and the proper sorting of organics and recycling by performing annual route audits. In May and June 2025, certain neighborhoods in Fairfield were selected to be part of route reviews. During these route reviews, Republic Services Sustainability Advisors conducted a visual observation of residents' recycling, trash and organics carts.

Here are the most common contaminating items found in the recycling and organics carts during this year's routes review.



RECYCLING CART

Plastic bags or plastic film cannot be placed in the recycling cart. If you collect recyclable materials in a plastic bag, please empty the bag before disposing of it inside your blue recycling cart. Recyclables need to be loose, empty, clean and dry for collection. You can either place the plastic bag in the trash or reuse it, but it cannot go in the recycling cart.

Takeout containers with leftover food inside cannot be recycled.

Styrofoam™ cannot be recycled and needs to be placed in the trash cart.

Pizza boxes should be placed in the organics cart, not the recycling cart. Once cardboard or paper is soiled with grease or food, it needs to be composted.



ORGANICS CART

Plastic bags or plastic film cannot be placed in the organics cart. Plastic cannot be composted. If you want to use a bag to collect food waste, you can use a compostable bag. The compost facility only accepts compostable bags that meet BPI-certification standards. These types of bags will have the BPI logo to help you identify them. Alternatively, you can use a paper bag to collect your organic waste. Please remove any plastic from produce items.

Painted or treated wood is not compostable. Treated or painted wood needs to be disposed of as trash because of the chemicals it is covered with.



TRASH CART

Please remember that State Law Senate Bill (SB) 1383 requires California residents to separate their recycling and organic materials from the trash. Recycling and organic materials were the most common contamination material in Fairfield residents' trash carts. These items need to be sorted and disposed of in the right cart so they can be either recycled or composted. Composting organic waste produces significantly fewer greenhouse gases, such as methane. Methane is a climate super-pollutant that is 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide and, according to CalRecycle, these greenhouse gases negatively contribute to climate change.

ELECTRONIC WASTE (E-WASTE)

E-waste cannot be disposed of in the recycling, trash or organics carts. Fairfield residents can drop off small appliances and e-waste at the Republic Services facility located at 2901 Industrial Court, Fairfield. The facility is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. (closed for lunch from 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.) Fairfield residents can bring up to five (5) e-waste items per visit. All batteries must be removed, and the weight limit is 60 pounds. Medical equipment is not accepted.



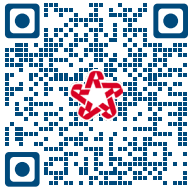
The Environmental and Economic Impacts of Food Waste

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), one-third of all the food in the United States is never consumed. When we waste food, we also waste all the resources used to grow, harvest, process, transport, cook, preserve, and refrigerate it. The food supply chain is complex and generates a large amount of greenhouse gas emissions.

EPA also reported that the estimated cost of food waste to American consumers is \$728 per year. For a household of four, the annual cost is \$2,913. We often do not realize the amount of food we waste, as it is easy to forget what we have in our pantry and refrigerator.

Here are tips to help you save money and reduce your food waste:

- ✓ Shop your fridge and pantry before you go to the grocery store.
- ✓ Plan your meals, and make a list of items that you need.
- ✓ Monitor your leftovers, and find out if you can prepare less.
- ✓ Consider freezing some of your leftovers if you have a lot of them, to extend their life.
- ✓ Store your food in clear containers so you see what is inside. Arrange items in your refrigerator and pantry from the oldest to newest, so you can use the food that is about to expire or spoil first.



If you must dispose of your food waste, remember to place your food waste in the organics cart (green lid), not the trash cart. State law requires that food waste be diverted from the landfill, so help do your part by reducing, reusing, and recycling your food waste.

Please scan the QR code for a complete list of items that can be placed in the organics cart.

Upcoming Events

Compost Giveaway Day

Are you thinking about gardening this fall season?

Fairfield residents are encouraged to attend this free compost giveaway event hosted by the City of Fairfield and Republic Services!

Saturday, September 13, 2025

9 a.m. - 2 p.m., or until supplies last.

Dunnell Nature Park & Education Center
3351 Hillridge Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534

This is a self-serve event. Be sure to bring a container to collect your compost in. For questions, please contact the City of Fairfield Solid Waste Division.



Volunteer at the California Coastal Creek Cleanup Day

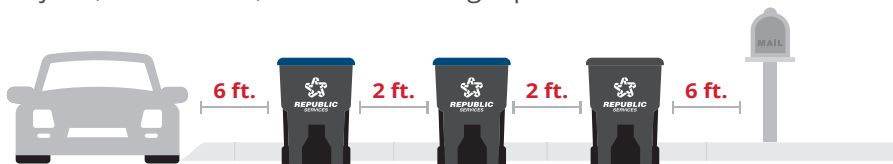
Saturday, September 20, 2025

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Visit FairfieldSuisunsewer.ca.gov for local information.

Please Help Us Serve You Better

Please place carts at least 2 feet apart and 6 feet away from other objects, such as cars, mailboxes and light poles.



Sustainability in Action